

# THE ROAD AHEAD

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 | ISSUE 2 | VOLUME 7





# THE TEST OF CHAMPIONS

## AMERICA'S TRIPLE CROWN

The Triple Crown is the pinnacle of American horse racing, a sequence of three legendary races that test speed, stamina, and sheer willpower. Each leg carries its own traditions, drama, and unforgettable champions, making the journey from Louisville to Maryland and finally New York one of the most captivating sagas in sports.

# WHERE SPEED MEETS CHAOS AND LEGENDS TAKE THEIR FIRST STRIDE

Held annually at Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Derby is the first step toward immortality. Since its inauguration in 1875, it has grown from a regional contest into a global spectacle, drawing over 150,000 spectators and millions of viewers worldwide. Known as “The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports,” the Derby is a chaotic 20-horse battle over 1¼ miles (about 2000 meters), where favorites and long shots alike can etch their names into history. From Secretariat’s record-shattering run in 1973 to Rich Strike’s shocking 80–1 upset in 2022, the Derby embodies unpredictability.

The blanket of 554 red roses draped over the winner has become a symbol of triumph, tradition, and the start of a possible Triple Crown bid. And as May 2, 2026, approaches, anticipation builds around which new contenders will rise to claim the roses and ignite dreams of racing immortality.

#### Kentucky derby 2026 contenders

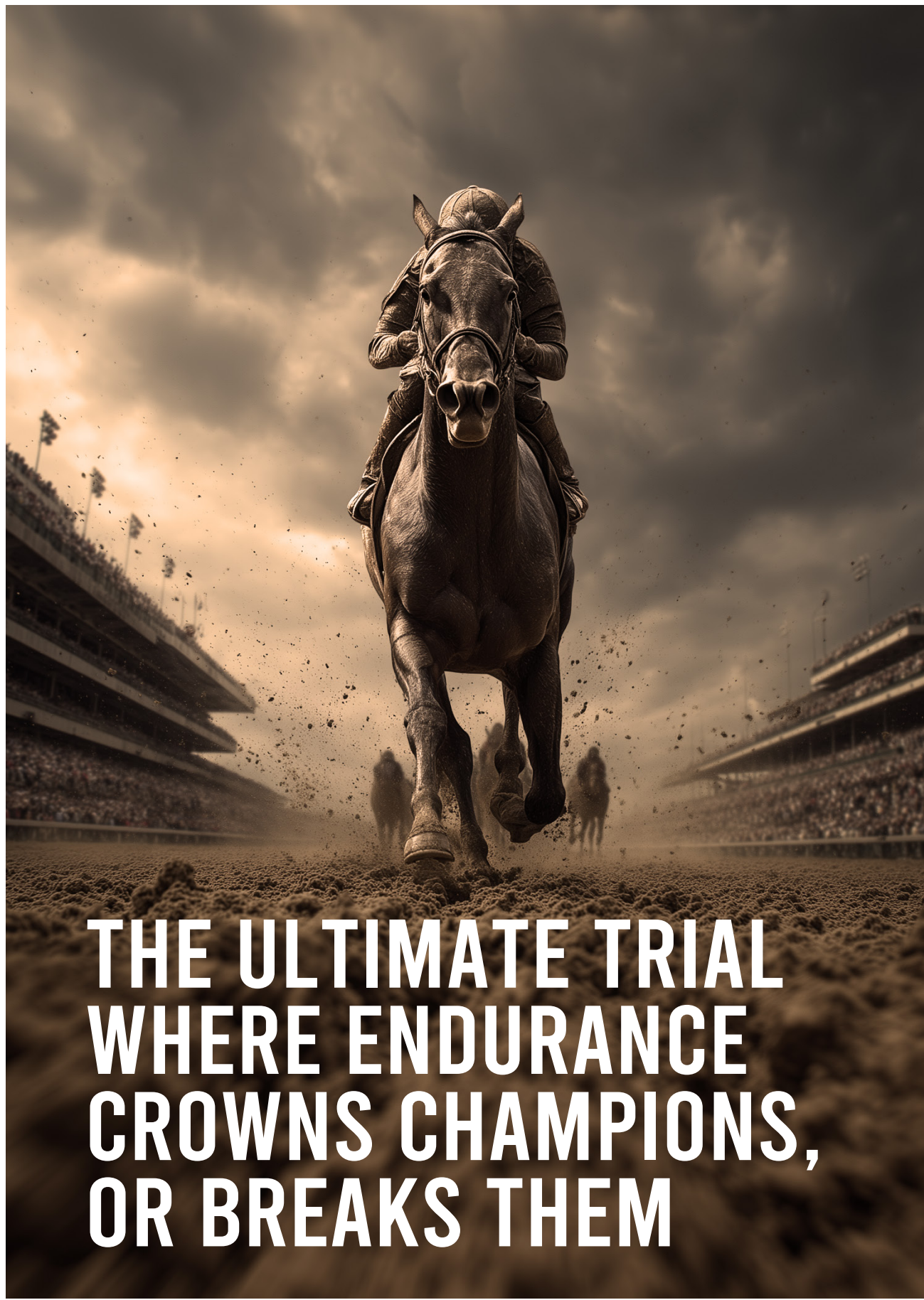
- RENEGADE
- ALBUS
- INTREPIDO
- LITMUS TEST
- RIGHT TO PARTY
- COMMANDMENT
- DANON BOURBON
- SO HAPPY
- THE PUMA
- WONDER DEAN
- INCREDIBOLT
- CHIEF WALLABEE
- SILENT TACTIC
- POTENTE
- EMERGING MARKET
- PAVLOVIAN
- SIX SPEED
- FURTHER ADO
- GOLDEN TEMPO
- FULLEFFORT
- GREAT WHITE
- OCELLI
- ROBUSTA
- CORONA DE ORO

# THE PROVING GROUND WHERE DREAMS ARE TESTED AND RIVALRIES IGNITE

On May 16, 2026, the spotlight moves to Maryland for the Preakness Stakes. First run in 1873, it has long been the bridge between Derby glory and Belmont destiny.

Traditionally held at Pimlico, the 151st edition will instead take place at Laurel Park during Pimlico's \$400 million redevelopment.

Shorter than the Derby at 1 3/16 miles (about 1900 meters), the Preakness is tactical, often featuring smaller fields and sharper strategies. It is here that Triple Crown dreams either gain momentum or collapse. Secretariat's breathtaking 1973 victory, Rachel Alexandra's historic win as a filly in 2009, and American Pharoah's rain-soaked triumph in 2015 all highlight the race's unique blend of grit and spectacle. Draped in Black-Eyed Susans, the winner leaves Maryland either as a contender for immortality or a spoiler of dreams.



**THE ULTIMATE TRIAL  
WHERE ENDURANCE  
CROWNS CHAMPIONS,  
OR BREAKS THEM**

The Belmont Stakes, first run in 1867, is the longest and most punishing of the three. Known as the “Test of the Champions”, its 1½-mile (about 2400 meters) distance exposes weaknesses and demands endurance beyond raw speed.

Only 13 horses have ever conquered all three races, with Belmont often serving as the graveyard of Triple Crown hopes. Secretariat’s 31-length overpowering victory in 1973 remains the most iconic performance in racing history, while spoilers like Sarava (70–1 in 2002) remind fans that nothing is guaranteed. In 2026, the race will be staged at Saratoga due to Belmont Park’s redevelopment, but its essence remains unchanged: the Belmont is where legends are crowned, or dreams are shattered.

Together, these three races form a narrative of ambition, unpredictability, and endurance. The Kentucky Derby dazzles with chaos and spectacle, the Preakness sharpens the test with strategy, and the Belmont delivers the ultimate trial of stamina. Each spring, fans witness not just horse races, but the unfolding of tradition, drama, and history.

As the curtain rises on the 2026 season, all eyes turn to Churchill Downs on May 2. The Derby’s \$5 million purse and its role as the gateway to the Triple Crown make it the most anticipated race of the year.

Soon, whispers will grow louder about which young contenders might seize the roses and set off on the path toward racing immortality. The stage is set, and the next chapter in Triple Crown history is about to begin.

# THE EPSOM DERBY

## THE TEST OF THE COMPLETE HORSE

The Epsom Derby, officially known as the Derby Stakes, is the race that gave its name to every other “Derby” around the world. First run in 1780 at Epsom Downs Racecourse, it was founded by Edward Smith-Stanley, the 12th Earl of Derby, and quickly became one of the most prestigious events in the global horse racing world. Open to three-year-old colts and fillies, the Derby covers 1 mile, 4 furlongs, and 6 yards, roughly 1½ miles, and has long been regarded as the ultimate proving ground for young thoroughbreds.

Unlike the standardized tracks of American racing, Epsom Downs is a course full of quirks and challenges. Horses must tackle steep uphill climbs, sudden downhill plunges, and the famous camber, a sideways slope that can cause even elite runners to drift off-line. The tight turns, especially at Tattenham Corner, demand balance, agility, and tactical intelligence from both horse and jockey. It is not simply a test of speed or stamina, but of adaptability under pressure. Many favorites have faltered here, undone by the track itself rather than their rivals.

The Derby is also a cultural institution. Regularly attended by the British Royal Family, it is as much a social spectacle as a sporting event, with fashion, betting, and tradition woven into its identity. Its history is marked by unforgettable moments, including the tragic 1913 incident when suffragette Emily Davison stepped onto the track and was struck by a horse, forever linking the race to a wider social struggle. Winning the Derby can transform a horse into a legend and a stallion into a fortune worth tens of millions, underscoring its immense influence on the sport and breeding industry.

International participation has grown steadily, with Irish-trained horses dominating in recent decades and French challengers adding further depth. Campaigns leading to Epsom are carefully targeted, with fewer prep races than in North America, reflecting the unique demands of the Downs. Early pace control and jockey positioning are critical, as the race often hinges on how well a horse handles the course's unpredictable rhythm.

If the Belmont Stakes in the United States is known as “The Test of the Champion,” then the Epsom Derby is rightly called “The Test of the Complete Horse.” It rewards adaptability, balance, and nerve, producing upsets that remind fans that at Epsom, the track itself is the greatest rival.

**Legends are made here; favorites often fail, and every stride carries the weight of history.**

---

# ROYAL ASCOT

## WHERE RACING MEETS ROYALTY

The Royal Ascot is far more than a horse racing meet; it is a five-day festival that blends elite sport, royal tradition, fashion, and the thrill of betting into one of the most prestigious events in the world.

Founded in 1711 by Queen Anne, who envisioned a course where horses could “stretch their legs,” it has grown into a cultural institution that defines the very essence of British flat racing.

From Tuesday, June 16th to Saturday, June 20th, 2026, Ascot Racecourse will welcome over 70,000 spectators each day, with millions more watching across 200 countries. Each afternoon begins with the famous Royal Procession at 2:00 pm, when members of the British Royal Family arrive in horse-drawn carriages, setting the tone for a week steeped in pageantry. The races themselves are among the highest tier of flat racing, Group 1 contests that attract the best horses, jockeys, and trainers from around the globe.





The racing is as demanding as it is glamorous. Ascot's Straight Mile Course is unforgiving, favoring raw pace, while the Round Course tests stamina and positioning, ending with a slight uphill finish that has broken many favorites. Across five days, more than 500 horses compete, with highlights including:

**Day 1 (Tuesday): Queen Anne Stakes, King Charles III Stakes, St James's Palace Stakes**

**Day 2 (Wednesday): Prince of Wales's Stakes**

**Day 3 (Thursday – Ladies' Day): The prestigious Ascot Gold Cup**

**Day 4 (Friday): Commonwealth Cup, Coronation Stakes**

**Day 5 (Saturday): Diamond Jubilee Stakes**

Legends have been forged here. Yeats dominated the Gold Cup with four consecutive wins (2006–2009), Frankel delivered one of the most effortless victories in the Queen Anne Stakes in 2012 and Enable thrilled fans with her brilliance in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes. Winning at Ascot is not just about prestige; it can define a horse's legacy forever.

Yet the Royal Ascot is as much about culture as competition. Strict dress codes in the Royal Enclosure demand top hats and tails for men, and elaborate hats or fascinators for women. Over 300,000 bottles of champagne are consumed during the week, and the event generates hundreds of millions for the UK economy. It is one of the rare occasions where billionaires, celebrities, and lifelong racing fans mix together, united by tradition and spectacle.

The Royal Ascot is a celebration of excellence, endurance, and elegance. It is where the finest horses meet the most demanding track, where royalty mingles with racing enthusiasts, and where history is written year after year. In 2026, as the gates open once again, the world will watch to see which champions rise to claim their place in this timeless festival of sport and society.

The Royal Ascot is not just a race; it is a five-day festival of elite horse racing, royalty, fashion, and betting drama. It is one of the most prestigious meets in the world, with multiple top-level races rather than a single "main event."

# THE HASKELL STAKES

## SUMMER'S PROVING GROUND

On July 18, 2026, Monmouth Park in Oceanport, New Jersey, will host the Haskell Stakes, one of the most important races in American horse racing for three-year-olds. Often described as the mid-summer championship, it serves as a proving ground for the same generation of horses that battled in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes. For many, it is the race that defines whether a colt or filly truly belongs among the best of its class.

Monmouth Park itself is steeped in history. Opened in 1870, it is one of the oldest racetracks in the United States and remains a fan-friendly venue with seating for around 13,000, plus expansive infield areas that swell attendance well beyond that figure.

The Haskell is contested over 1½ miles (about 1800 meters) on dirt, a distance that demands tactical speed and resilience, especially under the summer heat and humidity that often shape the outcome. Speed horses thrive in dry conditions, inside posts can offer an edge, and the relentless July sun adds another layer of challenge.

Since its first running in 1968, named in honor of Amory L. Haskell, the race has grown into a Grade 1 event with a purse typically exceeding \$1 million. The winner often takes home more than \$600,000, along with prestige that can elevate a horse's career and breeding value. The Haskell is not just another race; it is a spotlight moment after the Triple Crown season, where champions confirm their dominance, or new stars emerge to steal the stage.

The roll call of past winners reads like a hall of fame. American Pharoah electrified crowds in 2015, fresh off his historic Triple Crown triumph. Rachel Alexandra, one of the greatest fillies in history, stunned the field in 2009 by beating the boys with authority. Point Given crushed his rivals in 2001, while Big Brown redeemed himself in 2008 after a disappointing Belmont. Each victory added to the race's reputation as a career-defining test.

For bettors, the Haskell is a magnet. With huge wagering pools, favorites often deliver, but when they falter, payouts can be dramatic. Post-Triple Crown fatigue, unpredictable weather, and shifting pace scenarios mean surprises are always possible. That unpredictability, combined with elite competition, makes the Haskell one of the most exciting betting events of the summer.

Ultimately, the Haskell Stakes is more than a race; it is a second chance spotlight. It combines the energy of a summer crowd, the thrill of high-stakes betting, and the drama of young horses fighting to prove themselves. On July 18, 2026, Monmouth Park will once again become the stage where legacies are forged, reputations are tested, and the best of a generation step forward to claim their place in racing history.

# THE BIG A'S

# LAST CALL

## AQUEDUCT'S FINAL CHAPTER

The scheduled closure of Aqueduct Racetrack in mid-2026 marks the end of an era for New York City's only remaining Thoroughbred track. Nestled in South Ozone Park, Queens, Aqueduct has been a fixture of American racing since its opening in 1894, a place where legends were born and history was written. Its long home stretch, winterized paddock, and subway connection made it unique, not just in racing terms, but as part of the city's cultural fabric.

Aqueduct has reinvented itself multiple times. The grand rebuild of 1959 transformed it into one of the most modern racing facilities of its time, complete with escalators and air-conditioned restaurants. In the 1960s, it even stepped in as Belmont Park's surrogate, hosting the Belmont Stakes during reconstruction. Later, the addition of Resorts World Casino in 2011 brought a new dimension to the grounds, blending racing with entertainment.

The track has seen some of the sport's greatest champions. Man o' War set a world record here in 1920, Secretariat made his career debut in 1972 and returned for his retirement parade in 1973, and Cigar launched his legendary 16-race win streak at Aqueduct. Upsets also defined its legacy, Sherluck's 65-1 shock in the 1961 Belmont Stakes, Angle Light's defeat of Secretariat in the 1973 Wood Memorial, and the triple dead heat in the 1944 Carter Handicap remain etched in racing lore.

Yet Aqueduct was more than just a racetrack. It was a community landmark, hosting Pope John Paul II's Mass in 1995, displaying murals of Secretariat visible from the Belt Parkway, and offering fans a subway ride straight to the gates. Its quirks, the winds off Jamaica Bay, the boardwalk lawns of its early years, and the winterized dirt track gave it a character that no other venue could replicate.

In late June or July 2026, Aqueduct will close its doors, with its premier races like the Wood Memorial and Cigar Mile moving permanently to the redeveloped Belmont Park. The new Belmont will be modern, winterized, and built for the future, but the loss of Aqueduct is deeply felt. For generations, it was the "Big A," a place where fans braved about the cold, cheered for champions, and witnessed moments that shaped the sport.

As the final race is run and the grandstand falls silent, Aqueduct's closure will feel like saying goodbye to an old friend. Its history will live on, but the absence of its familiar stretch in Queens leaves a void that no renovation can truly fill.

# FROM FIRE TO BANKRUPTCY

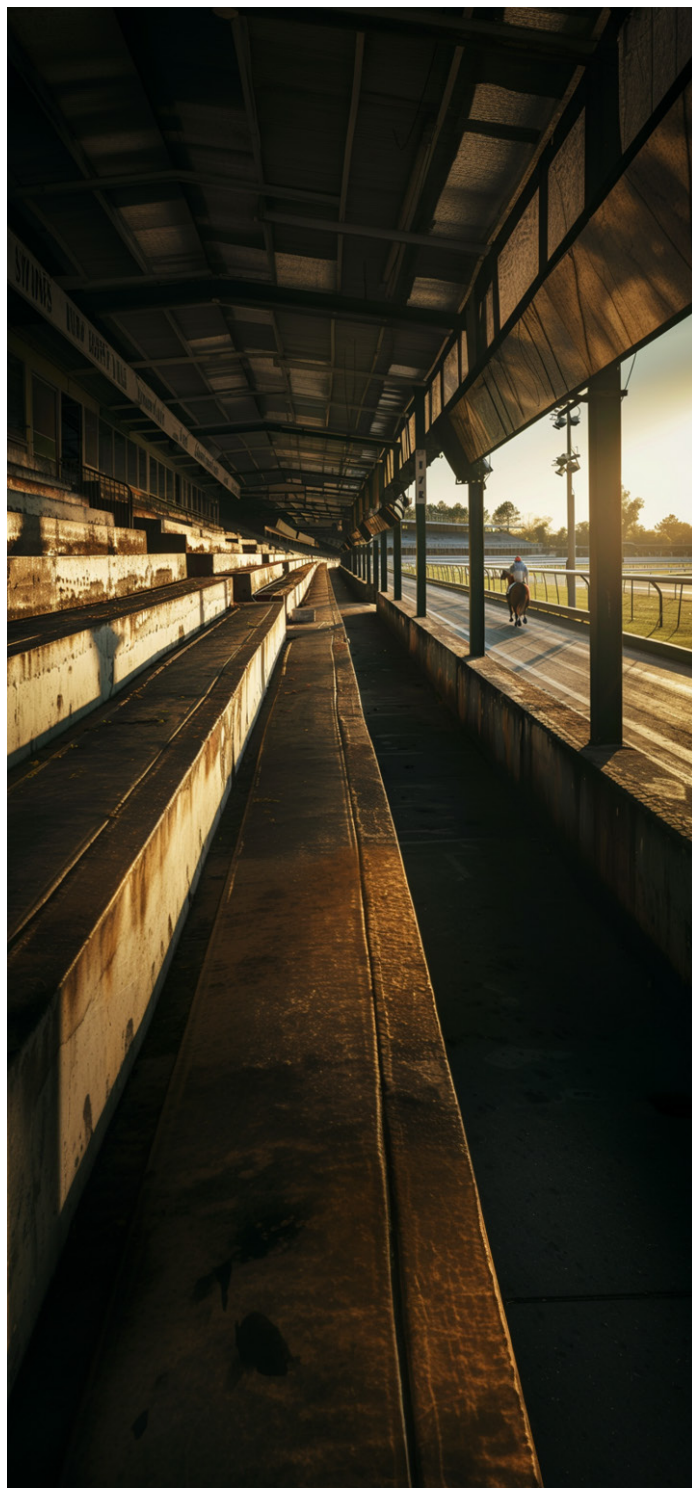
## HAWTHORNE'S STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

On February 27, 2026, Hawthorne Racecourse, affectionately known as “Chicago’s Hometown Track”, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. For a venue that has stood for 135 years, the announcement sent shockwaves through Illinois racing. The filing was not meant to close the doors immediately, but to buy time, reorganize, and perhaps secure a future. Still, the move underscored how fragile the track’s situation had become.

The troubles had been mounting for months. The Illinois Racing Board had already suspended Hawthorne’s harness racing license, citing “failure to demonstrate financial integrity.” Behind the scenes, the numbers told a grim story: nearly \$580,000 in bounced checks to horsemen, millions in unpaid real estate taxes, and construction liens that weighed heavily on the property.

Much of the strain came from the long-delayed “racino” project. Since 2019, Hawthorne had promised a \$400 million casino to subsidize racing purses and secure its future. But financing delays and a failed partnership with a mobile sports betting provider left the plan stalled. Without that revenue, the track’s purse structure, and operations faltered.

The immediate impact was severe. Harness racing was halted, and the 2026 Thoroughbred meet nearly collapsed until a bankruptcy judge authorized \$12.6 million in emergency financing. That lifeline allowed employees to be paid, and the track surface to be converted from harness (winter) to thoroughbred (spring) conditions.



For now, racing continues, albeit under court supervision.

Hawthorne's history makes the crisis all the more poignant. Founded in 1891 by Edward Corrigan, it is the oldest family-owned, continually run racetrack in North America. Twice its grandstand burned to the ground, once in 1902 and again in 1978, and each time it rose again. It pioneered technology, introducing electric timers in 1931 and the Bahr starting gate in 1940. During World War II, it even hosted "secret" meets for other tracks that were forced to close. Its 1,320-foot home stretch, the second-longest in the country, became legendary for favoring closers over speed horses.

The track has seen triumphs, scandals, and unforgettable stories. From Secretariat's contemporaries battling on its dirt oval to the bizarre "identity swap" scandal of Roman Decade in the early 20th century, Hawthorne has always been more than just a place to bet; it has been a living piece of Chicago's sporting soul.

Now, its future hangs in the balance. A buyer or development partner could still complete the racino project and stabilize the track for decades. Without one, the land, prime real estate near Chicago's city limits, may be sold for redevelopment, much like what happened to Arlington Park, once a jewel of American racing. Arlington was a cathedral of the sport, hosting the Arlington Million and drawing international champions, yet when its gates closed in 2021, the grandstands were demolished, and the site was sold for commercial redevelopment. What was once a place of triumph and tradition faded into memory; its legacy overshadowed by new construction. The fear now is that Hawthorne, with its 135 years of resilience, could follow the same path, its long stretch silenced, its history reduced to nostalgia, and its role in Chicago racing remembered only by those who once cheered within its walls.

For the racing community, the sadness lies not only in the financial turmoil but in the thought of losing a place that has endured fire, war, and countless challenges. Hawthorne has always found a way back. Yet as bankruptcy proceedings unfold, the fear is that this time, the stretch may finally end.



# ALGORITHMS AT THE GATE

## RACING IN THE DIGITAL ERA

For much of its history, betting was inseparable from the racetrack itself. Fans gathered at places like Churchill Downs or Ascot Racecourse, where the roar of the crowd and the ritual of holding a paper ticket defined the experience. Today, that tradition has shifted dramatically. Mobile platforms now allow bettors to watch live races and place wagers across multiple tracks worldwide, instantly and from anywhere. This change has transformed betting from an occasional event into a continuous cycle, where participation never truly stops.

Technology has reshaped patterns of play. Bettors place more wagers across more races, often smaller but more frequent, and exotic bets such as Exactas, Trifectas, and Pick 6s have become more accessible through apps. Pools are larger; odds update in real time, and “smart money” often enters in the final seconds before a race begins, creating volatility that casual bettors struggle to navigate. What once felt like a leisurely pastime has become a fast-paced, data-driven marketplace.

Artificial intelligence and algorithmic handicapping have accelerated this shift. Traditional handicapping relied on speed figures, track conditions, jockey performance, and pedigree. Now, AI models simulate race scenarios, identify undervalued horses, and predict outcomes with startling precision. Professional bettors armed with real-time data feeds and predictive algorithms place large wagers at optimal moments, often reshaping the odds just before the gates open. Casual bettors, guided more by intuition or favorites, find themselves betting into sharper, more efficient markets where easy wins are harder to come by.

Mobile apps have also gamified the betting experience. Push notifications remind users when a race is about to start; quick-pick options encourage instant wagers, and leaderboards or achievements turn wagering into a social competition. Features such as “cash-out” options allow bettors to exit mid-race, locking in partial winnings or minimizing losses.

The psychology of betting has shifted: players are nudged toward faster, more frequent wagers, often guided more by app design than by pure racing instinct.

The impact is double-edged. On one hand, technology has brought transparency, global access, and strategic tools that make betting more informed than ever. Bettors can wager on races in Dubai or Hong Kong as easily as on local tracks, and AI-driven insights reduce reliance on guesswork. On the other hand, nonstop availability increases the risk of overexposure; algorithmic dominance skews odds against casual players, and the communal atmosphere of the racetrack has been replaced by solitary screens and digital forums.

Horse racing itself remains unpredictable; no algorithm can erase the thrill of an upset or the drama of a photo finish. Yet the way fans engage with that uncertainty has changed forever. The communal magic of racing, the shared gasp at a long-shot victory, and the collective celebration of a champion are harder to replicate in digital form. Technology has ensured that betting is faster, sharper, and more global, but it has also left behind a quiet sadness: the fading of the racetrack as a social stage, replaced by the glow of a screen and the solitude of a wager placed in silence.



Thank you for reading; we have more to share and discover in this field.  
Stay tuned, you do not want to miss it!

www.americasimulcast.com | +507 6575 8258

Review the most important future races in our calendar here  
<https://americasimulcast.com/carreras-destacadas/>